

In the claims:

1. (Currently amended) An electric power tool, comprising a plurality of operational component groups; a plurality of separate housings which accommodate said operational component groups, said housings being ~~couplable~~coupled with one another in series, at least one of said housings being composed of a synthetic plastic casing which is reinforced with a metal sleeve, wherein said holder includes a spring-elastic belt which is placeable outwardly on at least one of said housings so as to coaxially partially surround said at least one housing, said holder further including a plurality of gripping arms which branch in an axial direction from said belt and have ends engageable with at least another housing which adjoins said at least one housing surrounded by said belt.

2. (Original) An electric power tool as defined in claim 1, wherein said metal sleeve is embedded in said synthetic plastic casing.

3. (Original) An electric power tool as defined in claim 1; and further comprising a holder provided for coupling of said housings, said metal sleeve being bringable in engagement with said holder.

Claim 4 canceled.

5. (Currently amended) An electric power tool as defined in claim 31, wherein said component groups include a drive component group, a transmission, and means for guiding and supporting a driven shaft, said housings including a first housing which accommodates said drive component group, a second housing which is coupled with said first housing and accommodates said transmission, and a third housing which is coupled with said second housing and accommodates said means for guiding and supporting a drive shaft, said holder being placeable on said second housing and provided with gripping arms which are engageable with at least one of said first housing and said third housing so as to provide a connection selected from the group consisting of a force transmitting connection, a form-locking connection and both between said gripping arms of said holder and a metal sleeve of a respective one of said first and/or said third housings.

6. (Original) An electric power tool as defined in claim 1; and further comprising a bayonet connection device which couple said housings with one another.

7. (Currently amended) An electric power tool as defined in claim ~~4~~1, wherein said ends of said gripping arms are formed as arresting hooks, said first and/or said third housings being provided with arresting means with which said arresting hooks are bringable in engagement.

8. (Original) An electric power tool as defined in claim 7, wherein at least one of said first and third housings has a wall provided with slots which extend both through said synthetic plastic casing and through said metal sleeve for engagement by said arresting hooks.

9. (Original) An electric power tool as defined in claim 5, wherein at least one of said first and third housings has a wall provided with slots which extend both through said synthetic plastic casing and through said metal sleeve for engagement by said arresting hooks.

10. (Original) An electric power tool as defined in claim 9, wherein at least one of said first and third housings has a wall provided with slots which extend both through said synthetic plastic casing and through said metal sleeve for engagement by said arresting hooks.